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Public Health

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2. Rare diseases and European Reference Networks

## Rare diseases and European Reference Networks

[Rare diseases](#)

Between 27 and 36 million people in the EU live with a rare disease. There are between 6 000 and 8 000 distinct rare diseases in the EU.

[European Reference Networks](#)

The European Reference Networks (ERNs) are cross-border networks that bring together European hospital centres of expertise and reference to tackle rare, low prevalence and complex diseases and conditions requiring highly specialised healthcare.

[EU4Health funding](#)

Since its inception, the ERNs have received continuous funding from the Commission.

### Latest updates

- News announcement
- 8 March 2024

[Commission launches joint action with €18 million funding to improve the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with rare diseases](#)

- 1 min read
- News announcement
- 29 February 2024

[JARDIN kick-off meeting - Rare Diseases in the EU: Joint Action shaping the future of ERNs \(8 March 2024\)](#)

- 1 min read
- News announcement
- 28 February 2024

- 1 min read
- News announcement
- 16 February 2024

- 1 min read

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## Highlights



[ERNs Evaluation](#)



- General publications
- 30 October 2023
- Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety



- Factsheet
- 28 February 2024
- Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety

[Factsheet - EU action on rare diseases: Improving patient access to knowledge, diagnosis and care](#)



[Information video for patients and healthcare professionals](#)

## Events

07Dec2023

- Partner meetings

[Board of Member States on ERNs – Exceptional meeting](#)

24Oct2023

- Partner meetings

[Board of Member States on ERNs – 27th meeting](#)

27Jun2023

- Partner meetings

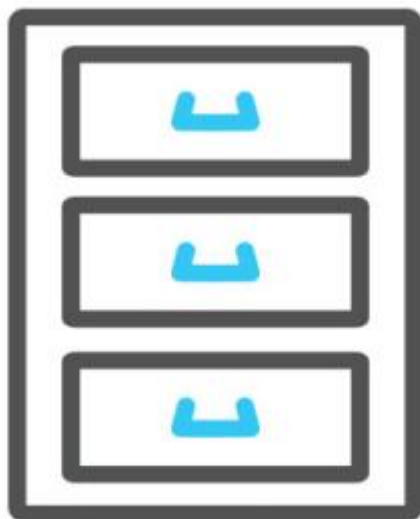
[Board of Member States on ERNs – 26th meeting](#)

05Oct2022

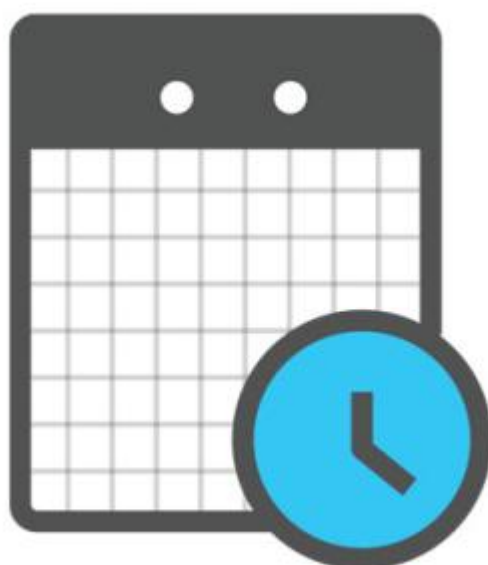
- Partner meetings

[Board of Member States on ERNs – 25th meeting](#)

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